

Gardez hospital: providing care for 40 years



A female doctor at the Gardez Civil Hospital administers a vaccine to an infant girl. Due to the improvements made to the hospital in the past year, the hospital staff can produce, sterilize and vaccinate all within the facility.

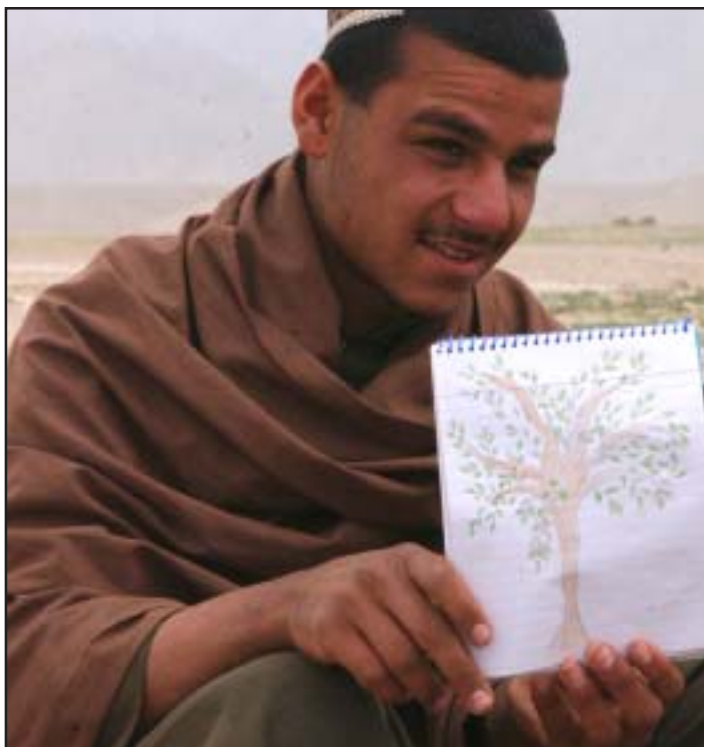
Story and photos by
Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

GARDEZ, Afghanistan – Since its origin 40 years ago, the Gardez Civil Hospital has survived war, poverty and tyranny, and has proven to be one of the best Afghan hospitals.

Although the hospital may seem primitive and austere to a foreigner, it has made many improvements in the past year in an effort to better care for the citizens of Gardez.

“This hospital has been around for over 40 years and provides the people of Paktika Province with free health care,” said Dr. Nada Zana, physician. “In the past few decades, many other hospitals around Afghanistan were forced to close due to war and financial

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Sixteen-year-old Bari Gull proudly shows the picture of a tree he drew for a class project.

CA team teaches Afghans English

Story and photos by
Spc Karlene E. Hemerly-Fluck
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

DEH RAWOOD, Afghanistan — Afghan teens gather outside the gate rain or shine to learn English from soldiers of the Civil Affairs Team-A 11. Classes are taught in a dried up waterway outside the fire base here.

“At first I was not sure about getting involved, but when I see the continued interest and the excitement on the childrens’ faces when they make progress in their studies, it makes it all worth it.” said Spc. William E.J. Carter, 450th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), Riverdale, Md, CAT-A 11.

Afghan teens approached the guards at the gate and asked questions about the Army and the United States. The guards enjoyed talking to the boys but could not have the continued distractions.

As a response, the CAT-A 11 team was called upon to assist in answering and dealing with the curious teens.

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Explosions could be heard in Baghdad late Thursday.

More U.S. troops head to Iraq

CNN — As President Bush declared the war in Iraq would last “however long it takes to win,” the Pentagon announced Thursday 120,000 additional troops were being deployed to the Persian Gulf region.

About 20,000 soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas, were expected to deploy this weekend, Pentagon officials told CNN. Two armored divisions and other units were expected to arrive by early April, they said.

In southern Iraq, 12 U.S. Marines with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force were listed as missing amid fighting around Nasiriya within the past 24 hours, military officials said.

Eleven of the 12 are from Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, and teams were combing the desert for them. Officials said another 14 Marines from Camp LeJeune were wounded in the battle.

Wounded U.S. troops say resistance surprised them

LANDSTUHL, Germany — A U.S. Marine wounded in the Iraqi war said Thursday he was surprised by the amount of Iraqi resistance, and an Army sergeant said he thought he was going to die in the fighting.

“When it comes to going back out there ... nobody wants to go back out in that sort of thing really,” said Sgt. Charles Horgan, 21, of the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment.

Horgan, Marine Lance Cpl. Joshua Menard and Army Staff Sgt. Jamie Villafane talked to reporters from Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

The hospital is treating 24 Americans for war wounds in intensive care and surgical units — 15 Marines, seven soldiers and two sailors, a spokeswoman said.

The three men were wounded in fighting at bridges over the Euphrates River south of Nasiriya. The southern Iraqi city is a key center in the war because of the strategic bridges.

CIA warned irregular Iraqi forces could pose threat

WASHINGTON — A classified CIA intelligence report widely distributed among Bush administration policy-makers and military leaders in February warned that irregular Iraqi forces could pose the greatest threat to U.S. and coalition forces, particularly to supply lines and rear units, U.S. officials say.

The report, dated February 3, said Baath party militia and the so-called “Fedayeen Saddam” could be expected to use “hit and run” tactics against rear units. The report also said such units might fire on Iraqi civilians in order to tie down U.S. and British forces, according to U.S. officials.

Other U.S. intelligence reports prior to the war also predicted, officials say, that Iraqi forces might fire on their own people in order to create scenes of civilian bloodshed suitable for propaganda use by the regime, which would blame the carnage on coalition forces.

Top U.S. official: Iraq has executed some POWs

WASHINGTON — Iraq has executed some prisoners of war in what the Pentagon’s No. 2 general described Wednesday as one of many “disgusting” war crimes committed by forces loyal to Saddam Hussein.

“They have executed prisoners of war,” said Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in an interview on CNN’s “Larry King Live.”

Pace did not elaborate. Earlier in the day, Pentagon sources told CNN they were looking into a report that Iraqi soldiers shot dead seven U.S. Army soldiers as they were surrendering with their hands up Sunday.

Iraqi television showed video of five U.S.

soldiers in custody after their capture Sunday and the bodies of at least five other soldiers who had bullet wounds to their foreheads. Iraq has since taken two U.S. Apache helicopter pilots captive and shown video of them.

Bush, Blair: No timetable for war

CAMP DAVID, Md. — U.S. President George Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, steadfast partners in the war in Iraq, declared Thursday there was steady progress in the campaign to topple the regime of Saddam Hussein and dismissed questions on whether that effort was taking longer than expected.

“This isn’t a matter of (a) timetable, it’s a matter of victory,” Bush said, declaring the war would last “however long it takes to win.”

Blair, who arrived at the presidential retreat in the Maryland mountains Wednesday evening for talks with Bush, agreed. “There is absolutely no point, in my view, of trying to set a time limit or speculate on it, because it’s not set by time,” he said. “It’s set by the nature of the job.”

U.S. walks out of Iraq’s address

UNITED NATIONS — The U.S. delegation to the United Nations walked out of a Security Council meeting Thursday as Iraq’s U.N. ambassador was excoriating the United States and Britain for their actions in Iraq.

Mohamed Aldouri of Iraq accused the United States and Britain of “criminal, barbaric” behavior and military aggression “that is killing women, children and the elderly and destroys the life and the future of the people of Iraq.”

“They previously tried to kill it through weapons sanctions, which lasted more than 13 years,” he said. “Through that period a whole generation of children ... were destroyed.”

Speaking later to reporters, U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte said, “I’d heard enough. ... I didn’t hear anything new and of course don’t accept any of the kinds of allegations and preposterous positions that he put forward.”

Critter of the Week:

Stable fly

By Capt. Cory Campora
791st Preventive Medicine Detachment

Soldiers at Bagram Air Base shouldn't be too alarmed if they are bitten by something looking like a house fly. Most likely the culprit is a stable fly – a blood feeding insect whose bite is uncomfortable, but does not transmit disease to humans.

Superficially it resembles a house fly, but upon closer inspection a stiff, slender beak can be seen sticking out from under the head. This pointy proboscis is used for piercing and is very different in shape from the sponglike mouthparts of a housefly.

Typically, stable flies remain outdoors and are mainly a problem with livestock, but they will bite people if given the chance. These flies have a worldwide distribution and small numbers were reported at Bagram Airbase in the spring of 2002.

Because feces, compost piles, and garbage can breed considerable numbers of these pests, proper sanitation can help to limit their occurrence on base.



Stable fly.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

Join the crew at the Dragon Palace tonight at 1430Z for a ping-pong tournament.

Tomorrow's movie will be "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets."



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Saturday
Bagram:	Partly cloudy H: 64F L: 50F	Fog H: 72F L: 45F
Kandahar:	Thunderstorms H: 82F L: 59F	Scattered showers H: 84F L: 57F
Kabul:	Fog H: 64F L: 47F	Fog H: 72F L: 45F
Uzbekistan:	Mostly cloudy H: 60F L: 40F	Mostly cloudy H: 66F L: 41F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Military women exemplify March

Story and photo by

Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke

11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – March is Women’s History Month. Women who made history are highlighted on the History Channel, in magazines and their biographies are posted in newspapers.

In light of the month, women here are not sitting back and reading yesterday’s news, but creating material for the future generations to read.

“Women pioneering the future” is the motto for the first all women’s road march

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issues, but this hospital managed to stay open.”

The most difficult time for the Gardez Civil Hospital, and many other hospitals was during the rule of the Taliban.

“In the past 10 years, the Taliban took over many hospitals all over the country for their own use,” said Zana. “The medical care that was allowed was mostly for men since most doctors were male and could not examine women.”

As a woman and physician, Zana knew that hospitals were essential for the well-being of pregnant women and their infants.

“Because of the many problems women were experiencing as a result of no health care, the doctors of this hospital petitioned the Taliban,” said Zana. “We convinced them that if women were not allowed to go to a hospital, there would be many deaths from childbirth. Luckily, they allowed me to continue practicing, and the hospital stayed open.”

As the rule of the Taliban came to an end, the hospital started to look towards rebuilding. According to Zana, the hospital has improved drastically in the past year due to reconstruction.

“The American forces fund the hospital now and have helped us tremendously to improve the facility,” said Zana. “Due to new improvements to the wards and the funding we are receiving, the hospital has been able to bring itself to new standards.”

Many of the illnesses treated at the hos-

scheduled Sunday here.

“I think it’s a good thing because you don’t see too many females together,” said Sgt. Mary Roper, supply, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 229th Aviation Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C. “It is not that long of a march, but it shines some light on women in a combat zone.”

As a woman, Roper said her mother was worried about her joining the military, because of war situations. But she is here, supporting her aviation regiment and maintaining a positive attitude.

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Sgt. Dawnhelena Neal, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 229th Aviation Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., said her future goals include becoming a command sergeant major.



A lab technician at the Gardez Civil Hospital, checks the temperature of a vaccine container. The hospital has a special ward that sterilizes vaccinations and keeps them at the right temperature.

pital are the same as when the hospital first opened, but the doctors now have new medications, strategies and a better facility to treat them.

“Surgical, mother and child health care, general medical and pediatrics are the four main departments in the hospital,” said Zana. “We see hundreds of patients weekly half of which are women. They suffer from complicated labor, anemia, malnutrition and gynecological problems.”

A few years ago, some of these easily treated problems would have been serious according to Zana. However, the hospital

now has the technology and the educated doctors to not only treat these problems but prevent them.

“Maternal death from complicated labors was a major problem here a few years ago,” said Zana. “In the past year however, we have improved our surgical capabilities to where we can conduct a successful cesarean section here in the hospital.”

“Prenatal care, and nutrition and hygiene classes are also some new programs the hospital has to offer,” said Zana. “We teach women that eating properly and keeping themselves and their children clean can prevent common problems such as malnutrition and infections.”

One of the latest improvements to the hospital has been vaccinating children and infants.

“Our hospital is now capable of not only administering vaccinations, but also making and sterilizing them,” said Zana. “We have a ward and a team of technicians set aside for the sole purpose of making the vaccinations and keeping them sterile.”

According to Zana, the Gardez Civil Hospital is one of the best hospitals in the country and she is very proud of how far it has come.

“Every patient that I treat is very grateful for my help and the treatment the hospital provides,” said Zana. “I love what I do. Female doctors are desperately needed in this country and women should try to further their education so we can have more of them.”



Spc. William E.J. Carter, 450th Civil Affairs Battalion, (Airborne), Riverdale, Md., CAT-A 11, reviews last weeks homework with Bari Gull, 16 (right), while other local teens listen and wait their turn outside Deh Rawood Fire Base.

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"The boys were interested in learning English and finding out more about a country they have only heard bad things about through the Taliban and al-Qaida," said Carter.

1st Lt. Bradford Adams and his CAT-A 11 team was busy holding bidders conferences and doing assessments among other tasks, but thought it would be great to do something more.

Adams decided to host a one-hour English class Tuesdays and Fridays for the interested teens. Classes are held for the 10 to 15 boys outside the compound. Class level is based upon the knowledge they already acquired in their prior schooling.

"We just found out what they knew and started from the student who knew the least," said Carter.

"Adams tends to go above and beyond the call of duty and enjoys getting socially involved with the local Afghan children. It is

people. I want to learn from them," said Darigul, a 16-year-old English student. Darigul said his favorite part of the class is the work book.

The work book consists of math, art and spelling. The class is assigned two to three pages of homework and then at the next class the students review and correct any problems.

The classes move on to the next level when Adams and Carter feel the students are ready. "We are very serious about these classes and do not want to just put a few words of English in their head. They want to learn it and we have the power to teach it," said Carter.

"I want to learn English. I want to help my country grow. I want to go to college and help with the education by becoming a school principal," said Noor Mohammad a 13-year-old student.

"The children will begin school again this week but if these teens are willing to continue their miles of travel for our English classes we will be more then enthusiastic in continuation of teaching them" said Carter.

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Her comrade, Sgt. Dawnhelena Neal, supply, 229th is doing the same by planning for the future.

Neal, who said she joined the military because she wanted something for herself, made sergeant in three years. Almost all of her family is in the military, which motivated her to join.

She said she looked up to her aunt, who is retiring from the Army in April. Seeing her as a soldier influenced her to do the same.

Neal now aims to be a command sergeant

major and said her leaders pushed her in the right direction when she joined. Now she has advice for newer soldiers and people who are thinking of joining the military.

"Become a leader. From the first day you come in, work towards becoming a (non-commissioned officer)."

She also makes clear that she strived for that goal ever since day one.

"I understand that women who came before us paved the way, but I don't want to be complacent. I want to open doors for women."

To exemplify this concept, Neal said she will put on her Kevlar and rucksack and join

the road march Sunday.

"I think it is a good idea. It helps women work well together," she said. "Usually the spotlight is on the Quick Reaction Force and the infantry, all the jobs women currently can't take on, but this march let's women say, 'We can do it too.'"

The road march participants will meet at the Coalition Task Force-82 basketball courts at 0300Z Sunday. To participate, contact Capt. Alayne Cramer, Combined Joint Task Force-180 Public Affairs Office at 303-587-5632 or Master Sgt. Pam Smith, CTF-82 PAO, at 303-640-1270.



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Woods finishes strong, sits four back

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — Tiger Woods got off to a slow start Thursday, but rallied down the finishing stretch to finish his first round at even-par 72, four strokes off the clubhouse leaders at the Players Championship.

Skip Kendall, Jay Haas, Bob Tway and Rocco Mediate — a local favorite who made a par save from off the green on the 18th — all shot 4-under 68s and share the clubhouse lead. Half the field is still on the course.

Woods missed six of his first eight fairways in windy, damp conditions at the TPC at Sawgrass and fell to 2-over after five holes. He was still 2-over after 15 before rallying with two birdies on the final three holes to get back to even.

John Daly, who has missed three of five cuts this year, was among the early surprises at Sawgrass, shooting a 2-under 70 to climb the leaderboard.

Earlier Thursday, Scott Hoch became the fourth player to withdraw from the event, deciding before his tee time he could not play with a wrist injury.

Hoch joined Ian Leggatt (wrist, hand), Ernie Els (wrist) and Phil Mickelson (new baby) on the sidelines for one of the tour's most prestigious tournaments.

Sorenstam's 68 gives her first-round lead

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. — Annika Sorenstam stood on the first tee, felt the wind whipping from the right and wondered why the fairway seemed so narrow.

A few hours later, her competitors were wondering something else — how to keep Sorenstam from running away with the first LPGA major championship of the season.

Wary of the early wind, Sorenstam settled down by hitting her

opening tee shot in the middle of the fairway Thursday. She then went on to shoot a 4-under 68 to take a two-shot lead over Karrie Webb and three others after the first round of the Kraft Nabisco.

Serena reaches final before rains come



Serena Williams is eyeing her third title of a torrid 2003.

KEY BISCAYNE,

Fla. — From the start, Serena Williams had Kim Clijsters on the defensive, sliding into the splits at the baseline in vain attempts to retrieve overpowering shots.

The maneuver made Clijsters look like a cheerleader, and in the end all she could do was join the applause for Williams. The world's No. 1 player advanced to the final of the Nasdaq-100 Open and remained unbeaten in 2003 by winning 6-4, 6-2 Thursday.

Williams' opponent Saturday will be the winner of the all-American semifinal between No. 6-seeded Jennifer Capriati and No. 12 Chanda Rubin. Rain forced the postponement of that match until Friday.

Williams defeated Capriati in last year's final.

"If I'm playing my best tennis, I don't think anyone right now can beat me," Williams said.

Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

Saturday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ Tennis: NASDAQ 100 Open: Men's Semifinal Match 1 (tape delayed) 0030Z
- ❖ ESPNNews (live) 0500Z
- ❖ College GameNight (live) 0530Z
- ❖ Totally NASCAR (live) 0600Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0700Z
- ❖ NBA Friday: Phoenix Suns @ Detroit Pistons (tape delayed) 0800Z
- ❖ NBA Friday: Dallas Mavericks @ Portland Trail Blazers (tape delayed) 1200Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (tape delayed) 1400Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 1500Z

Sunday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ Boxing: Middleweight Championship: Bernard Hopkins vs Mourade Hakkar; Heavyweights - Hasim Rahman vs David Tua (live) 0200Z
- ❖ ESPNNews (live) 0600Z
- ❖ NBA 2Night (live) 0630Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0700Z
- ❖ COLL BB: NCAA Women's Basketball Championship Regional Semifinal - Sweet 16: Duke vs Georgia (tape delayed) 1200Z
- ❖ COLL BB: NCAA Women's Basketball Championship Regional Semifinal: New Mexico vs Texas Tech (tape delayed) 1400Z

"What's the matter, honey, I thought you wanted an SUV?"



kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support

Rah!

crossword

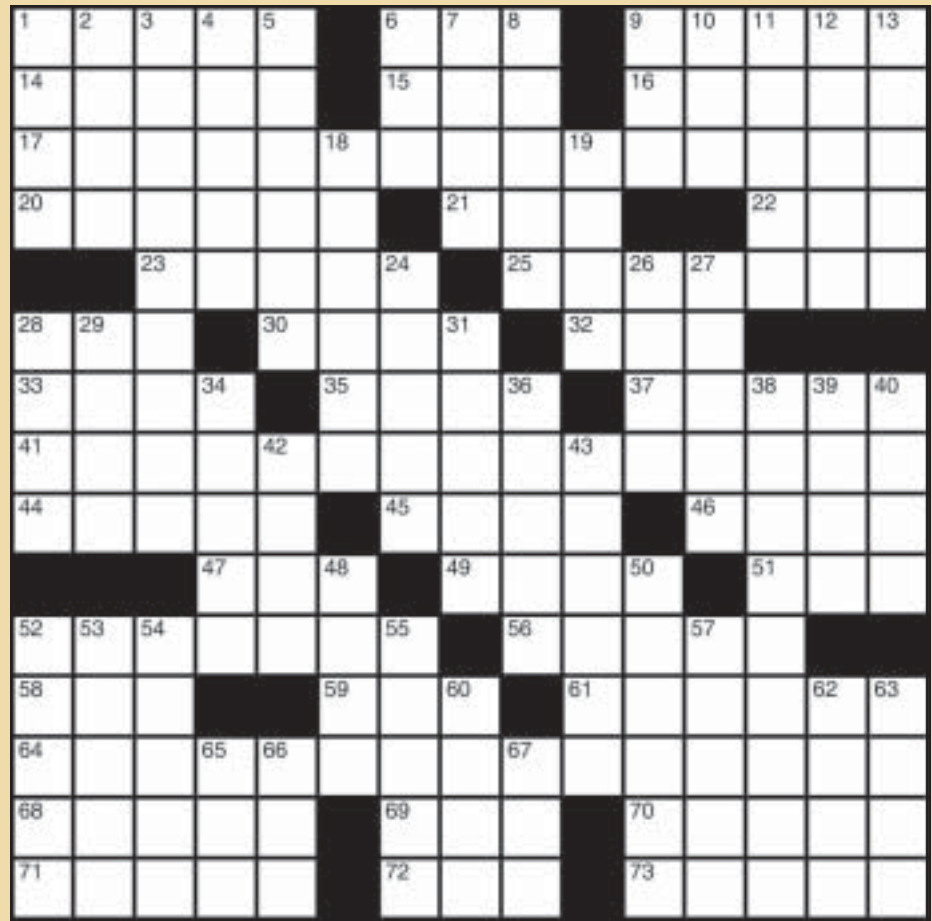
(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

Across

- 1 Flings the horsehide
6 Chicago trains
9 Knuckleheads
14 NBC newsman Roger
15 Card player's cry
16 "Stormy Weather" singer
17 SIS
20 Sailors' patron
21 Tip of a wing tip
22 Bon __ (witty saying)
23 Legal claims
25 Tiny tootler
28 Winner's take, often
30 Shell game, e.g.
32 "Well, lah-di-__"
33 San __ Obispo, Calif.
35 Exam sans pencils
37 Brown-toned photo
41 BOOM
44 Extend, in a way
45 '60s-'70s Japanese prime minister
46 Huff state
47 What's more
49 "Read 'em and __!"
51 NFL tiebreakers
52 Adds, in a way
56 Get going
58 Man-mouse link
59 Unlikely tic-tac-toe win
61 One with pressing duties?
64 BAH
68 Permeate
69 Neptune's domain
70 Bagel choice
71 Stun gun
72 Pull the plug on
73 Hardly wordy

Down

- 1 One of the Cartwrights



- 2 Condo, e.g.
3 Nat Turner led one
4 Austrian actress Palmer
5 Attacks à la "Ghostbusters"
6 Three-minute __
7 Use weights
8 Nosy sort
9 Non-fielding 28-Downs
10 __ and aah
11 Teaser ad
12 Sign up
13 Brief fight
18 Sarge, e.g.
19 Tim of "Sister, Sister"
24 Delhi wraps
26 Mama __ Elliot
27 Scolds, with "out"
28 Oriole or Blue Jay, for short
29 Clare Boothe __
31 Colorful 50-Down
34 Dishonest sort
36 Medieval strings
38 Red wine choice
39 Pt. of a monogram
40 FBI workers: Abbr.
42 Holds title to
43 Word preceding justice or license
48 Way in
50 Mocking bird
52 Namely, in legalese
53 Bakery lure
54 Pasta, potatoes and such
55 Wild West knot
57 TV exec Arledge
60 Seer's sign
62 Psyche parts
63 Artist Magritte
65 Scheduled to arrive
66 Not "agin"
67 In a blue funk

Solutions will be posted in Saturday's Freedom Watch